

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claim 9.

Please add new claim 11.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A combination buttonhook and zipper puller comprising:  
a grasping ring;  
an elongate portion ~~having a periphery and~~ being joined to said grasping ring;  
~~said periphery of~~ said elongate portion being formed of two corresponding and opposing strands;  
one of said corresponding and opposing strands being shorter in length and extending part of the length of said ~~elongate~~ elongated portion and having a terminus;  
one of said corresponding and opposing strands being longer in length and extending the full length of said elongate portion to form an end portion and further extending from said end portion and having a terminus at a point near said terminus of said shorter corresponding and opposing strand;  
said two corresponding and opposing strands being releasably joined near their said respective termini;  
~~said periphery formed by said corresponding and opposing strands~~ elongated portion being tapered toward said end portion.
2. (original) The combination buttonhook and zipper puller of claim 1 further comprising said grasping ring having an opening of sufficient dimension for a human digit to extend therethrough.

3. (original) The combination buttonhook and zipper puller of claim 2 further comprising said grasping ring having an oval shape.
4. (original) The combination buttonhook and zipper puller of claim 2 further comprising one or more internal supporting members.
5. (original) The combination buttonhook and zipper puller of claim 2 wherein said grasping ring further comprises a holder for releasably retaining accessories upon said grasping ring.
6. (currently amended) The combination buttonhook and zipper puller of claim 2 wherein said corresponding and opposing strands comprise a first and second strand, the terminus of said first strand further comprising a seating channel;  
said seating channel releasably receiving the terminus of said second strand such that, when said first and second strands are connected, ~~said periphery of~~ said elongate portion is smooth and continuous, and when said strands are not connected, said ~~periphery~~ elongate portion forms a discontinuous opening between the termini of said first and second strands.
7. (original) The combination buttonhook and zipper puller of claim 6 wherein, when said grasping ring is in a relaxed state, said terminus of said first strand is spaced apart from

said terminus of said second strand, and when said termini of said first and second strands are connected, said grasping ring is in a state of tension.

8. (original) The combination buttonhook and zipper puller of claim 7 further comprising said seating channel at said terminus of said first strand forming an arcuate surface having a partial circumference of not more than approximately 190 degrees, said seating channel receiving said terminus of said second strand and holding said terminus against tension applied by said grasping ring.
9. (cancelled)
10. (currently amended) A combination buttonhook and zipper puller comprising a grasping portion and an elongated portion,  
said grasping portion having an opening of sufficient size to receive a human digit,  
said elongated portion ~~having a periphery~~ being formed by two segments of a filament,  
said segments being tapered and one of said segments forming a rounded end,  
said segments being releasably joined near said rounded end such that, when said filaments are joined, said ~~periphery~~ elongated portion forms a smooth, continuous surface,  
and when said filaments are not joined, said ~~periphery~~ elongated portion becomes discontinuous and the portion of said filament segment comprising said rounded end forms a hook,

said grasping portion being deformable and resilient such that said segments of said filament may be joined and released when pressure is applied at opposite sides of said elongated portion.

11. (new) A combination buttonhook and zipper puller comprising:
  - a grasping ring having an opening of sufficient dimension for a human digit to extend therethrough;
  - an elongated portion being joined to said grasping ring, said elongated portion being tapered toward the end opposite said grasping ring,
  - said elongated portion being formed of first and second strands;
  - said first strand extending part of the length of said elongated portion and having a terminus;
  - said second strand being longer in length than said first strand and extending the full length of said elongate portion to form an end portion and further extending from said end portion and having a terminus at a point near said terminus of said first strand;
  - said terminus of said second strand further comprising a seating channel forming an arcuate surface having a partial circumference of not more than approximately 190 degrees,
  - said terminus of said first strand having an outer diameter that is smaller than the inner diameter of said seating channel,
  - said terminus of said first strand being releasably held within said seating channel of said second strand against tension applied by said grasping ring such that, when said when

said grasping ring is in a state of tension said first and second strands are releasably joined and said elongated portion forms a continuous loop;  
and when said grasping ring is in a relaxed state said strands are not joined and said elongated portion forms a discontinuous opening between the termini of said first and second strands,

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael C. Cesarano". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

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